

Whereas, Kaneko Ikeda's partnership has been foundationally integral to her exceptionally capable husband's accomplishments over these seven decades, serving as confidant, scheduler, doctor, nurse, advisor and, most importantly, as a loving wife; and

Whereas, Kaneko Ikeda is an outstanding scholar with honorary degrees from more than 20 academic institutions around the world, a peace activist with honors from more than 25 international cultural institutions, and has received more than 75 honorary citizenships worldwide and is a model of inspiration for millions of women; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the efforts of Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda, in firm recognition of their lifetime efforts toward enabling each and every individual to live courageous and contributive lives as the means to foster a harmonious and peaceful society;

Now therefore I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim August 24, 2017 as Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 24th day of August, 2017.

HONORING SYMRA BRANDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to honor a dear friend and wonderful public servant in the Yonkers community, Symra Brandon, who this year is being honored by the Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation Inc. as their 2017 Woman of the Year. I have known Symra for many years and cannot think of a more deserving honoree.

Symra was born in New York City, and raised in Yonkers, New York. She graduated from the same high school I did, Evander Childs High School in the Bronx, and went on to receive a degree in Sociology at Morgan State College, followed by a Master's of Social Work degree from Hunter College School of Social Work and in Public Administration from Pace University.

Throughout her distinguished professional career, Symra was employed by the Westchester County Department of Social Services, Cornell University's Family Life Development Center, UAW/General Motors Skills Transition Center, the Westchester County Youth Bureau, where she served as Acting Director for the Youth Bureau, and the Office of Affirmative Action/EEO and Office for the Disabled. She retired from Westchester County in 2006 from the position of Assistant to Westchester County Executive Andrew J. Spano/Director of the Office of African American Affairs.

Symra was also a dedicated public servant, serving six terms as a Yonkers City Council Member for the First District where she was the first African American Woman to serve in the Council. During her twelve year tenure, Symra worked diligently on behalf of her constituents by sponsoring important legislation including mandating carbon monoxide detectors, landlord payment of Emergency Tenant Protection act fees, Senior Citizen, Veteran and Gold Star Parent property tax exemptions, and consistently supported development on

the Yonkers Waterfront in addition to the creation of jobs and contracts for local residents on major projects throughout the City. As a community leader, Symra was a conscientious advocate for improving the quality of life for residents in her district, especially to children and the elderly.

Today, Symra continues to serve the community as a role model and through her participation on many boards and organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Terrace City Chapter No. 26, Black Democrats of Westchester, the NAACP, National Council of Negro Women and The Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus.

Symra has always been an amazing partner to me in Yonkers, and an even better friend. It is my privilege to honor and congratulate her here today.

TRIBUTE TO LES CLARK

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Congressman DAVID VALADAO, to recognize and pay tribute to Les Clark on his retirement this month as Executive Vice President of the Independent Oil Producers' Agency (IOPA) after 37 years of dedicated service to the "mom and pop" oil producers in Kern County.

Les began his career in the very heart of California's Central Valley. After graduating from Taft High, he played football for Taft College and later baseball at California State University, Fresno. Shortly after leaving for school in Fresno, Les found himself back in the Kern oil patch, where he was first introduced to the oil business that he would go on to leave an incredible impact upon. Les had taken drafting classes at Taft College and was subsequently recommended by the school when Belridge Oil Company, in need of draftsmen, offered him a position where he gained a wealth of technical knowledge and hands-on experience.

With this experience and a well-established reputation as a down-to-earth, no-nonsense communicator, Les became the Executive Vice President of IOPA. In this position, he worked not only to move IOPA members' crude oil to refineries across the state, or as he would say to the "majors," but he also doggedly and passionately pursued their public policy interests at the Federal, state and local levels of government—in our state, that's no easy task. With a myriad of Federal regulations layered on top of byzantine state regulations that oil producers come up against daily, Les quickly became a regulatory expert learning complex issues and government procedures to advocate for his members.

One just has to walk into Les' office and see the stacks of paper-filled boxes and files piled on his desk—not to mention the giant model wooden oil derrick—to recognize his wealth of knowledge accumulated over a lifetime of dedicated service to the Kern oil patch. Sitting in those old wooden chairs across from his desk as we discussed the important issues facing Kern County's small oil producers, Les knew where every file was while answering his flip phone that rang nearly constantly to close a deal or put out a fire for one of his members.

In addition to his work for IOPA, Les is an active member of the Bakersfield and Kern County communities. Whether it was serving as a Taft Union High School Trustee to being a president of the Kern County Fair or the Taft Chamber of Commerce to chairing the West Side Hospital Foundation to being a board member of the Fresno State Alumni Association or Cal State Bakersfield Foundation, in addition to the many state and local advisory boards he participated on, he always made sure to focus on his family.

Les founded the Ponytail Softball League enabling the girls of Taft—including his daughters—to learn and enjoy softball. He is also in the Little League Hall of Fame for his service in coaching Taft little league teams, something he did for more than 30 years. Les coached baseball for Taft College and was a football referee for over 20 years. Many people may not know, but Les played competitive fast-pitch softball and semi-pro baseball for the Kern County League.

From my time working for former Congressman Bill Thomas, to when I served in the California State Assembly and now in the United States House of Representatives, I have always sought and appreciated Les' counsel, wisdom, and friendship. His larger-than-life personality and dry wit always made our conversations engaging and memorable. He always cut right to the crux of an issue and had a clear vision of where he wanted things to go. And, Les never shied away from telling me when he thought I was wrong or why some new Federal or state regulation was hurting his members, all the while leaning back in his chair, arms folded in front of his chest.

As Les enters this new chapter of his life, I'm sure he's looking forward to spending more time with his family, including his wife of 52 years, June, two daughters, Tessa and Kerrie, son "Little Les," ten grandchildren, Arizona, Ayana, Cash, Darius, Easton, Keelan, Logun, Sierra, Tanisha, and Willow, and great granddaughter, Zaria.

Les exemplifies how one can serve their community and become a living legend through that service—everyone in Bakersfield and the Taft community knows him and appreciates his passion and leadership for our region. We all wish him the best in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PERMIT COMMERCIAL FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY ON THE GROUNDS OF THE U.S. CAPITOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to permit commercial filming and photography on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, east of Union Square, the only area where such filming is currently authorized. This bill would permit commercial filming and photography outside of the Capitol and congressional office buildings by permit, so long as both the House and Senate are not in session. In today's world, where many societies are facing upheavals, our country should be the first to encourage commercial filming and photography of the Capitol, which symbolizes U.S.